

# CAPE BRETON MANIFESTO

**JEFF EWING**

Begin by saying  
something wise, or,  
failing that, obscure.

Envision, if it helps,  
a grave with  
its chiseled epigram

or the stern of a boat  
sailing into a  
February storm.

Your hometown is  
his hometown, your  
choices commensurate—

continue on  
and surrender  
every loved thing;

turn back and be  
forever absent  
from their songs.

Wind, sleet,  
chipped cleats  
iced with tears.

Write yourself  
into the corner  
you were born in.